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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

I wish to comment on the aforementioned docket numbers. The Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has recognized that there is a cause and effect link between the forced molting of hens and the presence of salmonella poisoning in eggs. In order to eliminate the danger, it would not be enough to place bacterial warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. More must be done.

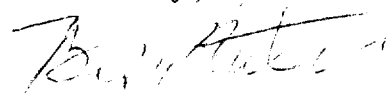
Forced molting should be banned because it has been scientifically proven to destroy the hens' immune systems and make them much more susceptible to disease. It should be obvious that starving an animal for 14 days would have this effect. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, which are harmful to human health.

The practice of forced molting is not only cruel, it is the primary cause today of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and the consumers of eggs. It is up to the FDA, as the guardian of the public's health, to stop this barbaric practice. Egg producers, who only take cost and efficiency into account, will never stop it on their own.

The FDA was petitioned in April of 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted immediately without any further delay. The more time that passes, the more cases of salmonella poisoning are needlessly spread.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,



Bryan Kortis, Esq.

96P-0418

C 331

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C331*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C332*

96P-0418/ *C331*